

Bolivian Denies Role In Gestapo in France

LA PAZ, Bolivia, May 20 (AP)—Klaus Altmann, a German-born Bolivian citizen, admitted today that he headed a special command of the German SS in France during World War II and used the pseudonym Klaus Barbie.

But the 56-year-old businessman denied French government charges that he is a war criminal guilty of slaying French resistance fighters and French Jews.

"I used that name Barbie as well as several others during the war," Altmann said in an interview. "Many of my comrades in arms did the same."

Bolivia is currently studying a French request for Altmann's extradition to answer charges of crimes allegedly committed by Barbie.

Altmann and his defense attorneys appeared confident that his admission of using the name Barbie during the war would not harm his case, now before the Bolivian Supreme Court.

Altmann said that he headed a special command of the German SS, an elite guard corps, in France, but added: "I never was head of the Gestapo, nor did I have anything to do with the death of chil-

dren or the massacres of which I am accused."

Altmann declined to discuss the death of Jean Moulin, a French resistance leader captured and killed by the Germans during their occupation of France.

The French have accused Barbie, allegedly wartime Gestapo chief in Lyon, of being responsible for Moulin's death.

Washington Post 3/17/72

Klaus Altmann / Barbie

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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2000 2006